

**Freimann Life Science Center**  
**Standard Operating Procedure for Managing Rodent Ulcerative Dermatitis**

**Purpose**

Mice, especially those on a B6 background, are prone to developing a severe idiopathic ulcerative dermatitis. The condition is chronic and can be debilitating. The lesions are progressive, causing scratching that leads to excoriation of the affected areas, most notably on the shoulders, head, and ventral neck. With many treatment regimens proposed, treatment success remains poor. The following procedures are designed to provide relief and minimize discomfort in affected mice. To this end, veterinary evaluation will provide guidance to researchers in determining humane endpoints for affected mice.

**Procedure**

1. Mice with dermatitis will be identified with a Yellow (Skin Problem) Vet Care Card tab. The location and size of the lesion will be noted by the animal care staff.
2. Mice will be examined by the veterinarian during weekly rounds and one or more of the following treatment options initiated:
  - a. Apply triple antibiotic ointment daily for 3 days then twice weekly.
  - b. Remove ear tag if scratching head or ears.
  - c. Place on Alpha-dri® bedding.
  - d. Segregate from cagemates if barbering is occurring.
  - e. Apply topical lidocaine gel daily or twice weekly.
  - f. Trim toenails.
  - g. Treatments as deemed necessary by Veterinarian.
3. Animal care staff will provide directed treatments.
4. Mice noted to have open lesions that exceed 10 millimeters in diameter, or which have scarring that interferes with normal movement or posture will be called to the immediate attention of the Veterinarian. The investigator will be notified and the animal will be euthanized.
5. Lesions on the head or face that involve the eye(s) are of special concern. All ocular involvement must be noted and the Veterinarian notified. Mice with conjunctivitis will be treated with an ophthalmic antibiotic. Should the condition fail to respond to treatment, the investigator will be notified and the animal will be euthanized.